

**State of Indiana
Commission for Higher Education**

Minutes of Meeting

Thursday, March 10, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Commission for Higher Education met in regular session starting at 1:00 p.m. ET at MADE@Plainfield, 1610 Reeves Road Plainfield, IN 46168, with Chairman Mike Alley presiding.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Members Present: Mike Alley, Ed Berger, Dennis Bland, Anne Bowen, Jud Fisher, Bill Hanna, Al Hubbard, Chris LaMothe, Pepper Mulherin, Chris Murphy (virtual), Dan Peterson, John Popp and Erika Steuterman

Members Absent: Beverley Pitts

CHAIR'S REPORT

Good afternoon and thank you everyone for joining us today. I want to thank Vincennes University and President Chuck Johnson, his team and the MADE@Plainfield staff for hosting our meeting today. We will have a chance to hear more about this building the important opportunities it offers students as part of our Public Square, so I will continue with our reports and turn it over to our panelist shortly.

As you may know, registration is open for the Commission's annual H. Kent Weldon Conference for Higher Education, which will be held in person on April 12th this year. We are delighted that Stephen Moret [More-Ray], President and CEO of Strada Education Network will participate in the event's keynote session and discuss the importance of career relevance.

I recently made some appointments for our sub-committees that I would like to share today. I asked Bill Hanna to serve on the Academic Affairs and Quality Committee and Erika Steuterman to serve on the Student Success and Completion Committee meeting. Their respective backgrounds will make them great contributors to these two committees. You have a handout in front of you that outlines the current committee rosters and all the scheduled meeting dates for the 2022 calendar year.

I also want to share that Anne will conclude her service as our student member this coming June, so the process has begun to select the next Student Commission Member. The application is open the Commission's website and will be open until April 1st. A committee of student leaders will review applications, conduct interviews and make a recommendation to the Governor for Anne's replacement later this Spring.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Thank you, Chairman Alley. This is my last Commissioner's report, and as best I can calculate I think I've provided approximately 150 Commissioner's reports in the years that I've been in this role. It was always my opportunity to highlight key events and issues as well as to acknowledge the good work that the Commission staff have been engaged in doing. Appropriately, I've always followed the Chair's remarks and have served alongside 10 members who have led this Commission as Chair. It's the people, the staff, the Commission members, and institutional, philanthropic and government partners that I will miss the most when I leave.

I remember when I left the Senate, I said the same thing: You know you'll miss the people, but you also hope that you did something that mattered, so I hope that during these years we've done things that mattered as well. As I said in my State of Higher Education address, this job has always been more about a mission than a job, and I think those of you who have served here feel the same way as well.

As the Commission transitions to new leadership, I am confident that it's going to be an exciting time for higher education and the Commission. I am also convinced that there is going to be a lot of challenges facing us to ensure that more Hoosiers enjoy the benefits of higher education, and I'm certain that the Commission and the new leader are prepared for those challenges and opportunities.

During my years in public service, starting with my 17 years in the Senate, followed by 13 years here, I have had the opportunity to learn a few things about leadership, and I'd like to share just a few of those with you as I conclude.

Hire the best people, you can find, and they make you better—I did that and it worked. Set high expectations and people will meet them—they did. Don't label people as your opponents or your friends—opponents are often your best supporters in another battle. Understand another's life journey and you'll understand their priorities and perspective and that may give you a way to move forward. Stay focused on a plan and let it guide your work and keep you from distractions and our strategic plans have done just that, I think, for the Commission.

The Commission heard me say this many times, and I often felt this when I talking to a new member who we're hiring, and that I sometimes think of myself as a dance teacher; you can fast dance, sometimes you have a big idea and you move it forward, and then you have to slow dance. You have to let people catch up. You have to implement those ideas, and the hard thing is sometimes you have to sit out a dance because it's just not the right time. So, I've often thought of myself at this point in my life is a dance teacher.

Be bold in thought, gracious in manner and determined in action. I admit, I am still working on this one. Share the credit and assume responsibility for the mistakes. Find your voice and don't be afraid to use it. Finally, remember that public service is about making a difference and improving lives, and that's a privilege.

A lot of times people have asked me about the next chapter. I have several options that I'm exploring. I want this decade to be less about accomplishment and more about purpose. I'm not exactly sure what that looks like, but I'm confident that God is leading me in this journey to my next exciting chapter.

Again, my deepest thanks to each of you. I'll be cheering you on.

My devotion this morning said that if you have people who say affirming things after you – and people have been so gracious to me – if I talked about leaving, my devotion said, “Don't deflect it, listen to what people say, and then at night give it all back to God in a bouquet,” so I'm giving it back to God.

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2022 COMMISSION MEETING

R-22-2.1 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Minutes of the February 2022 regular meeting. (Motion – Fisher, second – Murphy, unanimously approved)

II. PUBLIC SQUARE

A. Innovation in Industry: MADE@Plainfield Project

1. Andrew Klinger, Manager, Town of Plainfield
2. Scott Olinger, Superintendent, Plainfield Schools
3. Dave Tucker, Vice President of Workforce Development/Community Services, Vincennes University
4. Lori Handy, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor and Campus Operating Officer, Ivy Tech Community College

The Commission's strategic plan, *Reaching Higher in a State of Change*, calls for Indiana's higher education system to foster a culture that values lifelong learning and develop partnerships that improve the economic health and vitality of communities.

MADE@Plainfield is a partnership that includes Plainfield Community School Corporation, the Town of Plainfield, Ivy Tech Community College and Vincennes University, WorkOne and Hendricks College Network among others. These entities have been working together to address the need for regional-based adult education, vocational education, occupational education and other training and certification programs for individuals throughout Central Indiana.

MADE@Plainfield offers a variety of training opportunities intended to prepare individuals for local and regional talent needs, offering college-level courses, job certifications and job training to meet the needs of students.

Brandy Perrill, Executive Director of MADE@Plainfield and Executive Director at Hendricks College Network, and Charlee Beasor, Associate Commissioner for Communications and Outreach, moderated the discussion.

III. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Academic Degree Programs for Expedited Action

1. Master of Science in Applied Behavior Analysis to be offered by Purdue University Global

R-22-2.2 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the following academic degree program, in accordance with the background information provided in this agenda item. (Motion – Fisher, second – Hubbard, unanimously approved)

B. Capital Projects for Full Discussion

1. Purdue University West Lafayette – Life Science Ranges Phenotyping Greenhouse Building

Alecia Nafziger presented this item. Seth Hinshaw provided the staff recommendation.

R-22-2.3 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the following capital project, in accordance with the background information provided in this agenda item. (Motion – Steuterman, second – Hubbard, unanimously approved)

C. Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education

I am sure everyone in this room is aware that today is Teresa Lubbers' last meeting before her departure as Commissioner for Higher Education. Words cannot express our gratitude for Teresa and her visionary leadership. Since her appointment as Commissioner in 2009, she has championed numerous policies and initiatives that advance our higher education system and improve the lives of Hoosiers. Indiana is a national leader on so many levels because of her guidance and advocacy. We have a resolution honoring her service to the Commission.

Dan Peterson offered the resolution for Teresa Lubbers. Teresa provided remarks in response to the resolution.

R-22-2.4 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the following resolution, in accordance with the background information provided in this agenda item. (Motion – Murphy, second – all members, unanimously approved)

Now, we have the difficult task of appointing your replacement. The Commission met in executive session to discuss the Search Committee's selection process and recommended candidate.

Jud Fisher, Chairman of the Search Committee, shared that pursuant to Indiana Code 21-18-5-4, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education is the authorized body to

approve and appoint the Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education as its Chief Executive Officer.

The search committee is pleased to put forward Mr. Chris Lowery, who currently serves as the Senior Vice President for Workforce, Careers and Adult Strategy at Ivy Tech Community College. Chris also served as the Chancellor of the Columbus/Southeast region at Ivy Tech and prior to that he served at Hillenbrand for 19 years in a variety of roles directing policy, government affairs, corporate communications and engagement. The Search Committee unanimously recommends approval of Mr. Lowery for the role of Commissioner.

R-22-2.5 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the employment of Commissioner Chris Lowery (Motion – Fisher, second – Steuterman, unanimously approved)

Chris Lowery provided remarks in response.

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. Academic Degree Programs Awaiting Action
- B. Academic Degree Program Actions Taken by Staff
- C. Media Coverage

**V. OLD BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS**

There was none.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 P.M. ET

Mike Alley, Chair

Anne Bowen, Secretary